

REMARKS

Claims 115-153, 158-166 and 168-229 are pending in this application. By this Supplemental Amendment new claims 230-231 are added. Support for the newly added claims is found throughout the specification and no new matter is added.

Support for the newly added claims can be found in Figure 89 and its corresponding description. Protocols for hybridization of oligonucleotides are disclosed in section II.H. on pages 61-63. Stringent hybridization conditions of washing in 5x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 55 °C as specified in new claims 242-243 is described in Section IV.A.5 of the Specification (page 95).

No new matter is added. Entry of new claims 230-231 is respectfully requested.

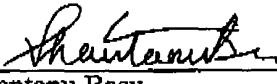
CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent on the pending claims, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned. If the Examiner determines that the claims are not allowable, Applicants request an opportunity to interview the Examiner.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 223002006313. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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